

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first session of *Mexico Through Your Senses*. We are very glad that you could all be present tonight. I believe it my duty, however, to inform you that you have been deceived. You have come here under the impression that you had been invited for a social gathering. The truth is that you have been recruited as participants in an experiment. Do not worry, though. I can assure you that you will return home unharmed. Nevertheless, it is our hope that you will not leave this place unchanged.

The inspiration for our experiment comes, fittingly enough, from a brand of philosophy that is quintessentially British. I am speaking, of course, of Empiricism. The idea is that nothing is in the mind that was not first perceived by the senses. Tonight and the following sessions we will apply this notion to Mexico, with the hope that, through your eyes, your mouth, your ears, your nose and your touch, our country will become part of your inner world.

We want to show you a Mexico that you have not seen, a Mexico beyond the headlines and the history books. We Mexicans are proud of our past, from the great pre-Columbian civilizations to the murals of Rivera and Orozco –but we also believe that our present contains many vibrant wonders. We invite you tonight to experience the Mexico of today, here, now, in the most immediate way. We hope –and this is the hypothesis of our experiment- that you will fall in love, and that you will soon return to this little island of Mexico to experience more of what your country has to offer.

Tonight we are going to celebrate the sights of Mexico through the work of some Mexican and British contemporary artists. We have with us (*insert names and titles of the people who are participating in the “conversation”*), who will guide our eyes through this visual banquet of sights that we have prepared for you. Again, thank you very much for coming –and we very much hope you will enjoy yourselves.